



Focus

Remedial Action Grants Available to Local Governments

When local governments have to clean up contaminated sites, the state of Washington, through the Department of Ecology, offers *remedial action grants* to lessen the effect of the cleanup costs to ratepayers and taxpayers. These grants encourage and expedite cleanup activity by local governments. Local governments include towns, cities, counties, school districts, fire districts, public utility districts and port districts.

In Fiscal Year 2001, Ecology awarded \$10,498,482 in *remedial action grants* to local governments. Grants were awarded to study and remediate contaminated sites, clean up brownfield (former industrial) properties, remove underground-storage tanks, clean up related soil and ground water contamination, investigate and conduct site hazard assessments, and provide clean drinking water to residents whose water well supply was polluted by a contaminated site.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants eligible for remedial action grants must be local governments potentially liable for the cleanup of contaminated sites or local governments that have entered into prospective purchaser consent decrees with the Department of Ecology. In addition to these requirements, the applying local government must meet one of the following three conditions to qualify for a grant:

- 1) Ecology must have required the local government to perform some phase of remedial action.

That requirement may take any of the following forms:

- a) A Model Toxics Control Act consent decree, enforcement order or agreed order
 - b) A Water Pollution Control Act enforcement order or consent decree
 - c) A compliance schedule for underground storage tank cleanup
- 2) The local government is a Potentially Responsible Person (PRP) under federal law. As a PRP, the local government has entered into a consent decree with the EPA for remedial action at a site. This decree must have been signed or acknowledged by Ecology, in writing, as a sufficient basis for remedial action grant funding.

- 3) The local government has completed an independent cleanup, submitted an independent cleanup report to Ecology's Voluntary Cleanup Program, and received a status of No Further Action from Ecology. Grants in this category can not exceed \$100,000, and application must be made within two years of completing the cleanup.

Eligible Costs

Costs that are eligible for payment by remedial action grant money include reasonable costs for: remedial investigations, feasibility studies, remedial designs, pilot studies, interim actions, cleanup action plans, capital costs of long-term monitoring systems, operation and maintenance costs incurred during first year of cleanup after facilities/equipment have been installed or constructed, underground storage tank removal/cleanup, certain retroactive costs, and other remedial actions included in the decree or order.

Costs for legal fees and penalties, oversight costs, most retroactive costs, costs of long-term monitoring, natural resource damage assessments, and source control/prevention at non-landfill sites are not eligible.

Funding Information

A local government may receive a grant totaling up to 50 percent of its eligible project costs for remedial investigations and feasibility studies, and up to 50 percent for remedial designs, interim actions and remedial actions.

A local government defined as *economically disadvantaged* may receive up to 25 percent additional funding. The following counties are deemed disadvantaged based on current data (this list is updated every two years):

<i>Adams</i>	<i>Kittitas</i>	<i>Okanogan</i>	<i>Stevens</i>
<i>Douglas</i>	<i>Klickitat</i>	<i>Pacific</i>	<i>Wahkiakum</i>
<i>Ferry</i>	<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Pend Oreille</i>	<i>Walla Walla</i>
<i>Franklin</i>	<i>Mason</i>	<i>Skamania</i>	<i>Yakima</i>
<i>Grant</i>			

How to Apply

There is no set application period for remedial action grants. However, Ecology should receive applications within 60 days of the effective date of the order or decree.

For more information or an application form, please call Diane Singer, Grants Manager, Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program, (360) 407-6062. Information is also available on the Internet at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/99505.html.

Ecology is an equal-opportunity agency. If you have special accommodation needs, contact Michelle Payne at (360) 407-6129 (Voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).

